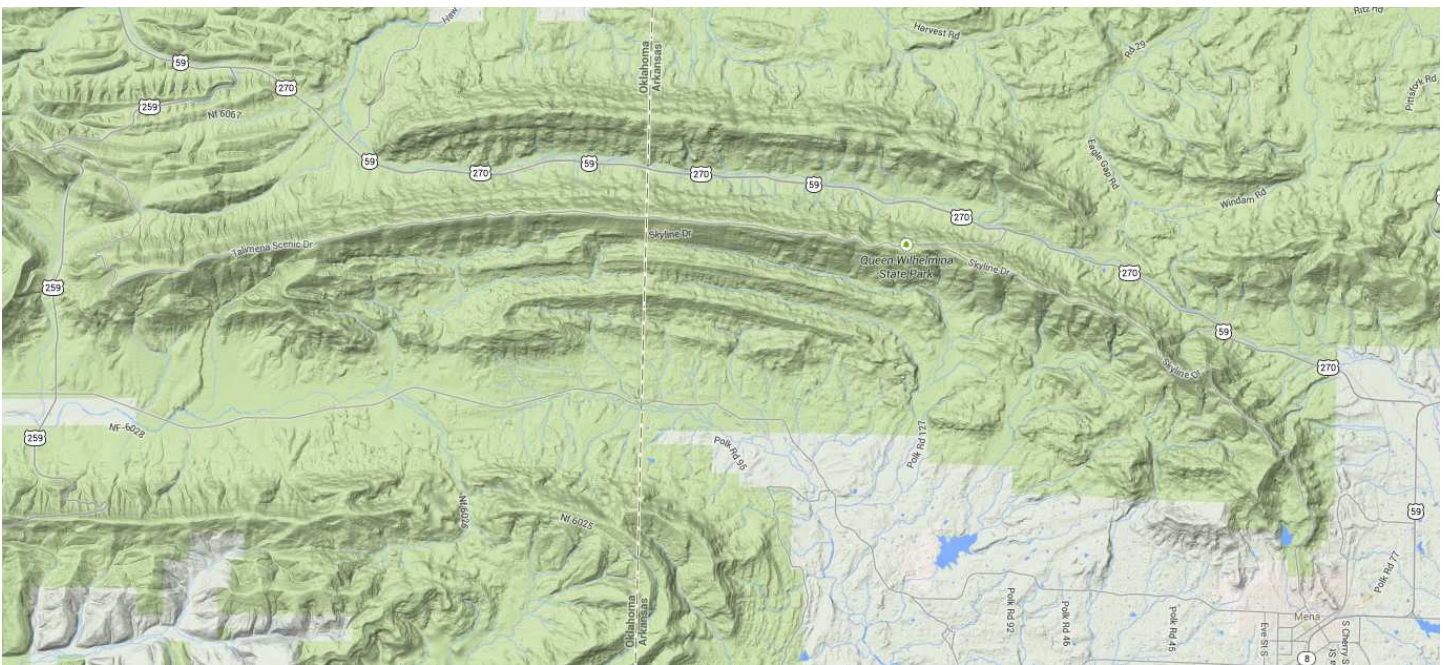
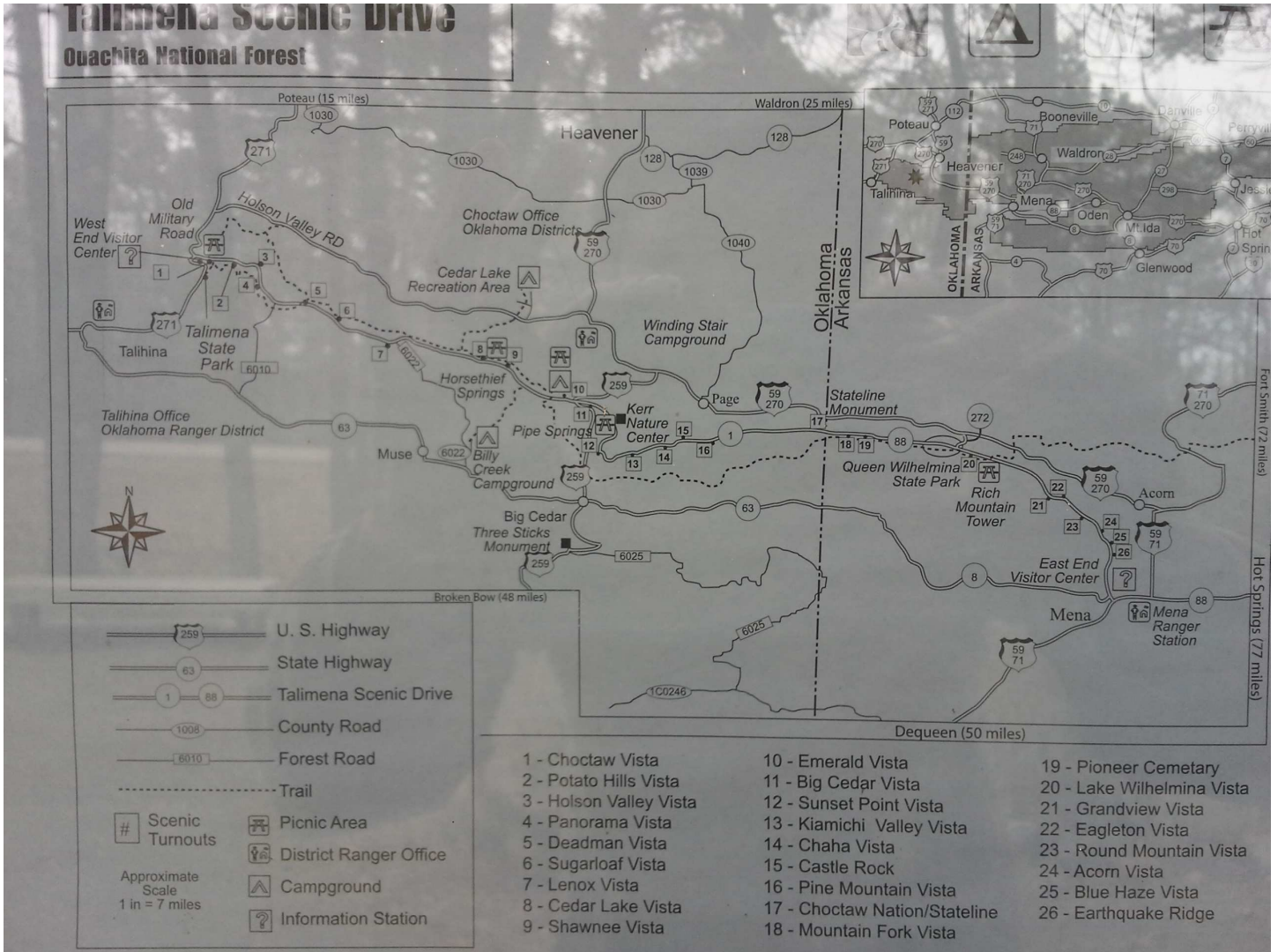


Left Hot Springs and headed west through the Ouachita National Forest. Yet another beautiful drive I've taken before but worth doing again. Hopped off 270 onto Country Road 88 (you know you're getting off the beaten path when the only road designation is at the county level) and took that into Mena AR. From there is a scenic drive, the Talimena scenic drive. Sorry, not a lot of pictures, had my hands full handling the trailer on this road, lots of grade changes and switch backs. Here's a terrain map, hard to read, but the road runs right along the top of the ridge into Oklahoma. This is an area I definitely want to explore further. Had a beautiful campground at Queen Wilhelmina, the spaces hung right out over the cliff, as well as miles of trails all around. The first time I drove through here I commented to my OK resident Uncle Jay what a pretty part of the state it was, to which he quipped, "It's the only pretty part of the state."



Area map.



Stopped for a couple pictures towards the end where I jumped off this treacherous route and started heading north Toward KC.



Realizing I wasn't going to make it all the way to KC this day, pulled into a McD's for some free wifi and to find a place to crash for the night. Found another place at the Grand Lake O' the Cherokees in NE Oklahoma, Honey Creek State Park. It was empty, only 2-3 more cars in the park. Didn't stay long, just crashed, made some breakfast, hit the showers, and got back on the road to KC.



Started heading due north through Miami OK, which as it turns out is part of the original Route 66. Nice little town.



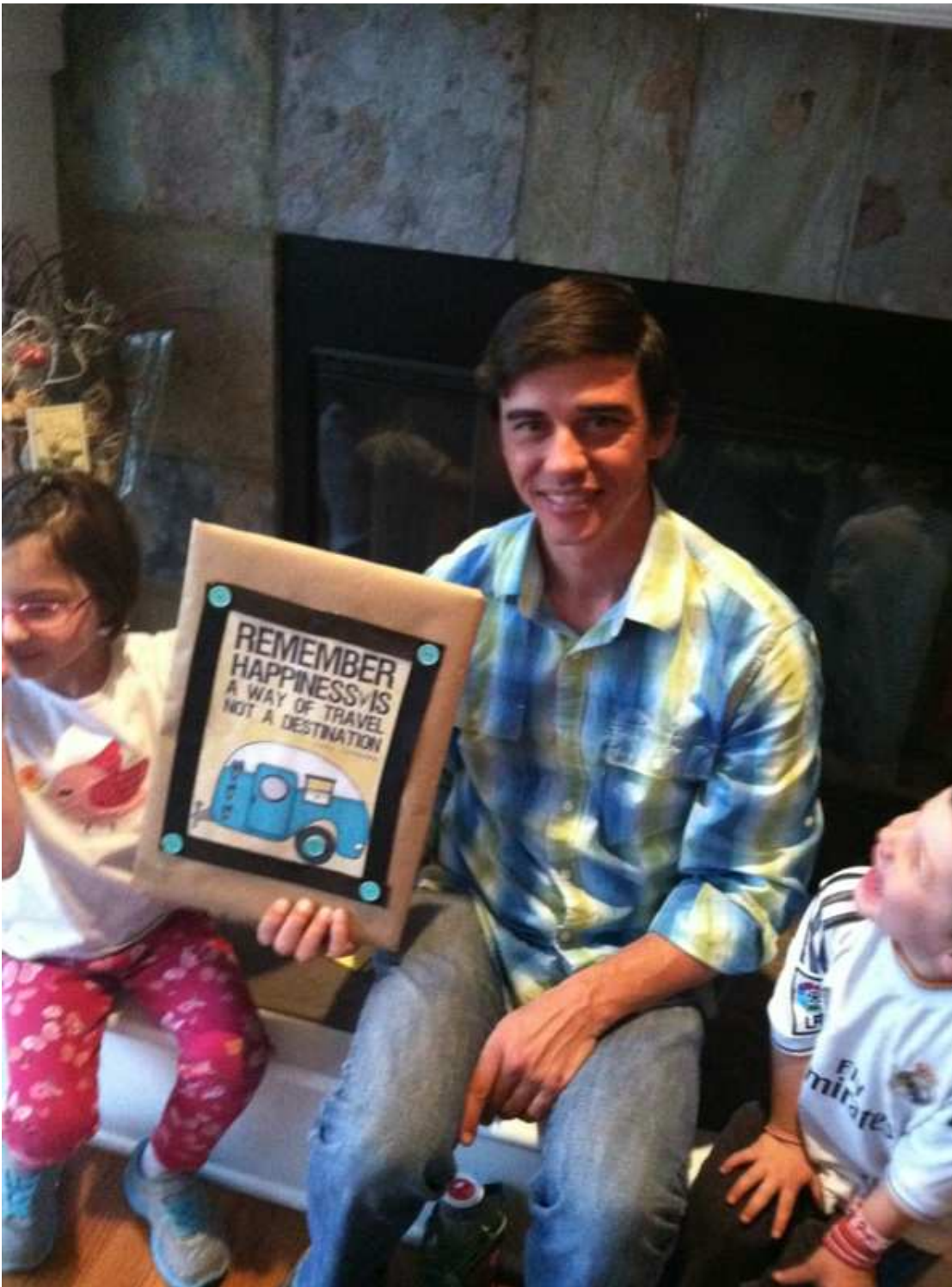
Then back in good ol' KS at the start of K-7.



Got a little hungry for lunch and was running low on provisions in the trailer, so jogged over to Pittsburgh KS because there was supposed to be a really good BBQ joint there. The BBQ joint was closed, dang it, but right next to it was a pizza place, so figured that would have to do. Turns out this was the hopping-est place in town. It was packed with families for the Sunday pizza buffet. You had to get in there and throw some elbows to get the good stuff. Every time they would bring out a fresh pizza it was like a swarm of locusts descending on the prairie. The guy in the chair looks ready to pounce.



And finally back in KC for a nice little BDay get together with the family.



Have to say this has been the funnest thing I've done since I can remember. An enchanted and blessed trip. Looking forward to getting back on the road to see what other adventures I can find.